

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

We claim:

Claim 1. (Currently amended) A mask support for continuous positive airway pressure comprising:

- a circumferential band adapted to encircle a head of a patient and to extend extending from a the forehead of a patient to below an the inion protrusion of an the occipital bone of a patient;
- a medial band operably connected to the circumferential band at a the forehead and at an the inion protrusion of an the occipital bone and passing over the approximate medial line of a the patient's head;
- a biasing means support positioned on the medial band at a point from the apex of the skull to about the middle of a high forehead and comprising at least two receiving slots;
- a biasing means comprising a continuous length of rigid material formed into a loop with two lateral arms of equal size, the ends of the arms being inserted into the receiving slots of the biasing means support and the lateral arms extending horizontally to a point forward to a nose the face of a patient and at that point curved downward at an approximately 90° angle to form descending arms at an approximately 90° angle with the vertical plane of the patient's face; the descending arms of a length to form a loop to encircle a face mask.

Claim 2. (Original) The mask support of claim 1 wherein the biasing means comprises spring steel.

Claim 3. (Original) The mask support of claim 1 wherein the receiving slots of the biasing means support comprise means for adjusting the horizontal length of the biasing means.

Claim 4. (Currently amended) The mask support of claim 1 which comprises means for adjustment of ~~the length of~~ the circumferential band.

Claim 5. (Currently amended) The mask support of claim 1 which comprises means for adjustment of ~~the length of~~ the medial band.

Claim 6. The mask support of claim 1 wherein the circumferential and medial bands are formed from a single piece of material.

Claim 7. The mask support of claim 1 wherein the medial band is bifurcated so as to form two arms and each arm of the medial band is connected to the circumferential band at each side of the medial line.

Claim 8. A mask support for continuous positive airway pressure comprising:
a circumferential band comprising an elastic material, said band adapted to encircle the head of a patient and to extend ~~extending from a the~~ forehead of a patient to below an the inion protrusion of an the occipital bone;
a medial band comprising an elastic material operably connected to the circumferential band at a the forehead of a patient and at an the inion protrusion of an the occipital bone of a patient and passing over the approximate medial line of a the patient's head;
a biasing means support positioned on the medial band at a point from the apex of the skull to about the middle of a high forehead and comprising two receiving slots;
a biasing means comprising a continuous length of rigid material formed into a loop with two lateral arms of equal size, the ends of the arms being inserted into the receiving slots of the biasing means support and the lateral arms extending horizontally to a point forward to a nose of a patient ~~the face~~ and at that point curved downward at an approximately 90° angle ~~with the vertical plane of the patient's face~~ to form descending arms, the descending arms of a length to form a loop to encircle the distal end of a face mask.

Claim 9. A mask support for continuous positive airway pressure comprising:
a hemispheric cap, the circumferential edge of which is adapted to extend ~~extends~~ from a the forehead of a patient to below an the inion protrusion of an the occipital bone;
a medial band operably connected to the circumferential edge of the cap at a the forehead of a patient and at an the inion protrusion of an the occipital bone of a patient and passing over the approximate medial line of a the patient's head;
a biasing means support positioned on the medial band at a point from the apex of a the skull of a patient to about the middle of a forehead of a patient and comprising at least one receiving slot;
a biasing means comprising a continuous length of rigid material

formed into a loop with two lateral arms of equal size, the ends of the arms being inserted into the receiving slots of the biasing means support and the lateral arms extending horizontally and at that point forming an approximately 90° angle ~~with the vertical plane of the patient's face~~, to form descending arms of a length to encircle the distal end of a face mask.

Claim 10. The mask support of claims 1, 8 or 9 wherein one lateral descending arm of the biasing means is inserted into a receiving means on the other lateral descending arm above the position of the face mask.

Claim 11. The mask support of claims 1, 8 or 9 wherein the biasing means comprises at least one length of spring steel which connect individually or in combination with a face mask.

Claim 12. The mask support of claims 1, 6 or 8 wherein the biasing means comprises angular adjustments means for a face mask in the region approximately from where the descending arm or arms connect to or form a loop around the face mask ~~to the highest point at which a face mask may be positioned relative to the descending arm or arms~~.

Claim 13. A mask support wherein ~~a single~~ the circumferential band and a medial bands create a stable platform for the biasing means support by encircling a the head of a patient so as to clamp the support to a the head with force vectors created at the undercut region of the forehead and the undercut region of the inion protrusion and the resultant radially oriented force vecotrs are established at the region where the circumferential band contacts a the head, wherein the mask support is stabilized to resist lateral vector forces.

Appl. No. 10/643,642
Amendment dated July 30, 2004
Response to Office Action of May 4, 2004

Amendments to the Drawings

A full set of drawings is attached. Figure 4 has been corrected to include the vector arrows discussed in the specification and included on the figures filed with the provisional application. Figures 1 to 4 now have the header on the front of the drawing, listing the title of the application, the inventor and the docket number.